

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☐

Property Name: Bunting's Gunning Lodge Inventory Number: WO--579  
Address: Assateague Island, Maryland City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: 21811  
County: Worcester USGS Topographic Map: Tingles Island, MD  
Owner: United States of America Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Hunting Lodge & Retention Properties Agency: National Park Service  
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☒ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

**Physical Description of Structures:** A 1968 appraisal describes the main building of the Bunting's Lodge property as having a "rather odd shape, being 62' across the rear, 24' on the south end and 28' on the north end, plus an 8' x 12' addition, then a 10' x 24' front extension and two screened porches." The total square footage of the first floor is 1,785 sq. ft. The main building incorporates a 12' x 12' second story observation room with windows on four sides. The structure is wood frame construction on pilings with asphalt shingles over clapboard on the exterior walls, and an asphalt shingle roof.

At the time of the appraisal, the property also included 5 small frame outbuildings, fencing, boardwalks and boat pier. The appraisal gives the age of the structure as 26 years, dating its original construction to around 1942.

Prepared by: Carl S. Zimmerman Date Prepared: 3/28/2012

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: Integrity has been compromised by deterioration

Jonathan Sager  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/8/12  
Date

B. Canty  
Reviewer, NR Program

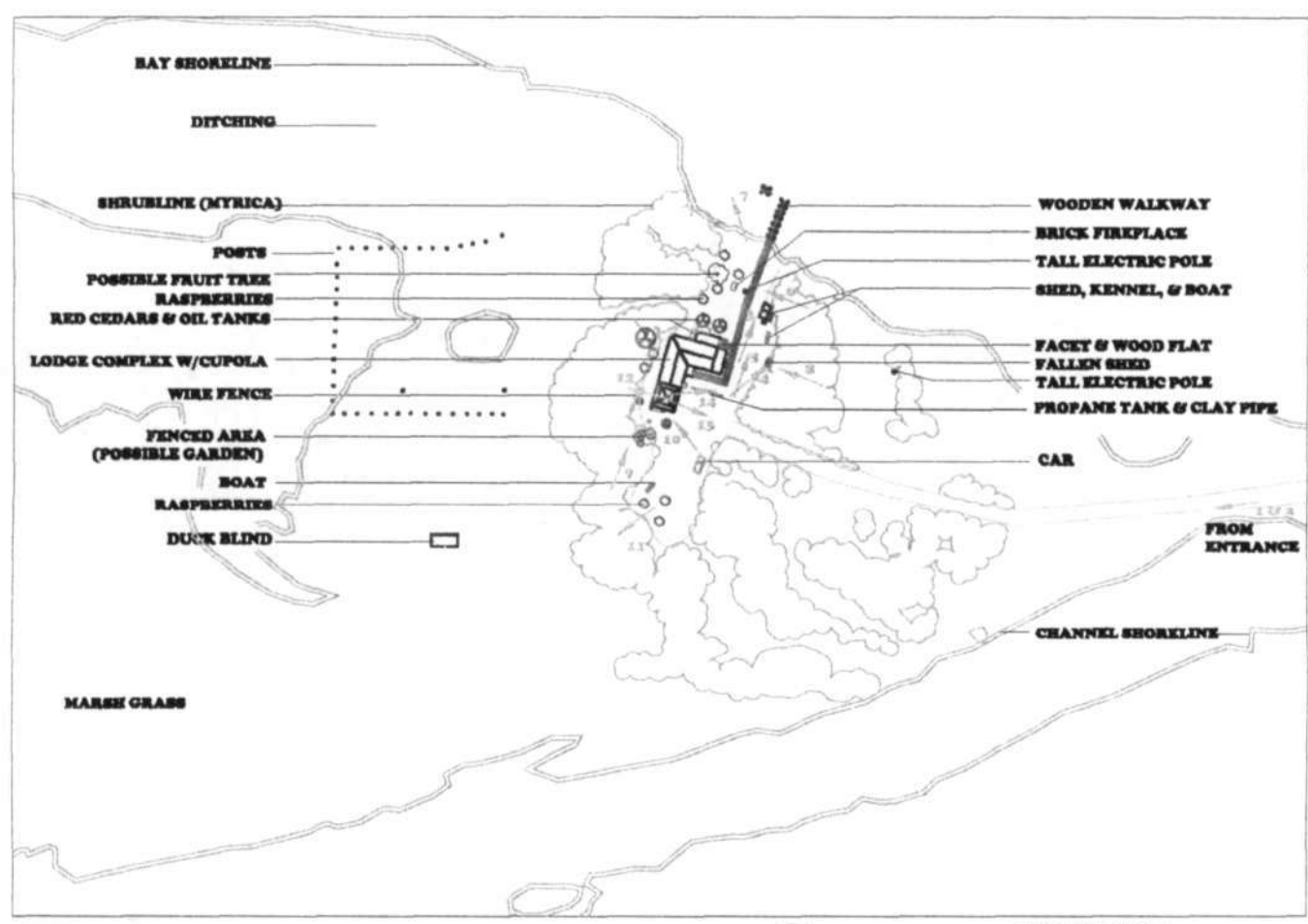
6/9/12  
Date

201201771

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

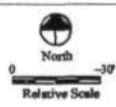
Continuation Sheet No. 1

## Existing Conditions Map



SOURCES:  
1997 Aerial photography  
Field observation

- SHRUB/TREE LINE
- EVERGREEN
- BUILDING
- SHORELINE
- POST OR POLE
- PHOTOGRAPH DIRECTION & NUMBER



**BUNTING LODGE**  
**EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP**  
Hunting Lodge Properties Study-Assateague Island National Seashore  
National Park Service-Philadelphia Support Office  
August 2000

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 2

**Brief History**

**Bunting's Gunning Lodge** (also called Bunting's and Gene Bunting's Gunning Lodge) (circa 1942 with addition circa 1951)

Within the 1968 property appraisal terms are used such as "existing lodge," "hunting locations," "lodge sites," and "hunting club site." One account states that Noah Hudson built Bunting's as a commercial hunting lodge; hunting parties were his livelihood. This clearly indicates Bunting's was used as and considered a hunting lodge with the potential for other hunting sites. Furthermore the Deed of Retention granted rights to "off-shore gunning privileges," further indicating waterfowl hunting activities were carried out here.

The 1968 appraisal states that the wood frame lodge was "orig. 26 yrs; add. 19 yrs" [original structure 26 years old in 1968 and addition 19 years old in 1968] placing its original date of construction as circa 1942. If this age is correct the lodge was built by Noah J. Hudson. Hunting was conducted here in the mid to late 1930s on a rather lavish shantyboat before the lodge was built. The lodge is of wood frame built with wood shingle siding with white trim and a green asphalt shingle roof resembling a Carolina beach house. It is a one-story structure except for the circa 1951 two-story tower-like addition. One account claims this structure was a Sears and Roebuck prefab kit house. A duck pen for live decoys was once located near the club house. The property was then purchased by Clayton Bunting in 1945. Bunting entertained clients of his nursery company in Delaware such as the owners of The Sears Roebuck Company. By 1968 the 375-acre tract consisted of only 152.85 acres of fast land. A fireplace and picture window were added to the lodge in 1972. The roof was damaged in May 1975 and a small access bridge washed out in 1977. Dave Devine resided here in 1978. Complaints about rabbit and deer hunters were lodged by caretaker William Bayard in December 1979. Vandals destroyed two entry doors in August 1980. Eugene Bunting, Clayton Bunting's son, became the owner in 1964 when Clayton's widow sold it to Eugene for \$1.00. Eugene was the owner at the time that the US Government obtained the property in 1968. Bunting's Gunning Lodge employed up to five people at one time. Chester Lawrence of Baltimore was cook and "Dink" Bunting was care taker. "Dink" would also cook and houseclean.

Excerpted from:

Eschelmann, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia. National Park Service, Berlin, MD.

**Eligibility Recommendation**

The Bunting's Gunning Lodge was a privately owned property where commercial and recreational waterfowl hunting was practiced on a recurring basis and, as such, the Lodge is associated with the historic context of commercial and recreational hunting on Assateague Island. The property is closely aligned with the Bunting family, known in the local area for their commercial nursery operations but, otherwise, has no known relationship to significant persons except, perhaps, the reported use by former owners of the Sears and Roebuck Company as invited guests. The property is a good example of a private membership/commercial lodge and reflects the types and patterns of hunting activity typical of the post war period on Assateague Island. The relationship of the lodge with the adjacent natural habitats is characteristic, and the built landscape contained many of the classic features of hunting camps such as wood walkways, a pier and boat dock, storage sheds, dog kennel, and a live decoy pen. While somewhat distinctive with its tower-like cupola, the overall architecture of the main lodge building lacks any particular design or construction qualities of note. Because of this, and its use of ordinary materials, the structure has little, if any, potential to yield important information about human history.

While many aspects of the property remain intact, the Lodge itself is in very poor condition. The building has been subject to a severe termite infestation since well before the previous owner's lease expired in 1999 and, as a result, is nearing structural failure. Preservation work to salvage the structure and make it safe for some future use would require extensive replacement of structural elements including floor joists, subflooring, and wall framing, as well associated interior components and finishes; all of which would, collectively, result in a major loss of historic fabric. Because of the degree of damage to historic fabric, the integrity of the club house and other built features has been severely compromised, and possibly lost in entirety. As such, the High Winds Gun Club is considered **ineligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bunting's

W0-579

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

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**Bibliography**

Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. National Park Service. Berlin, MD. 103 pages.

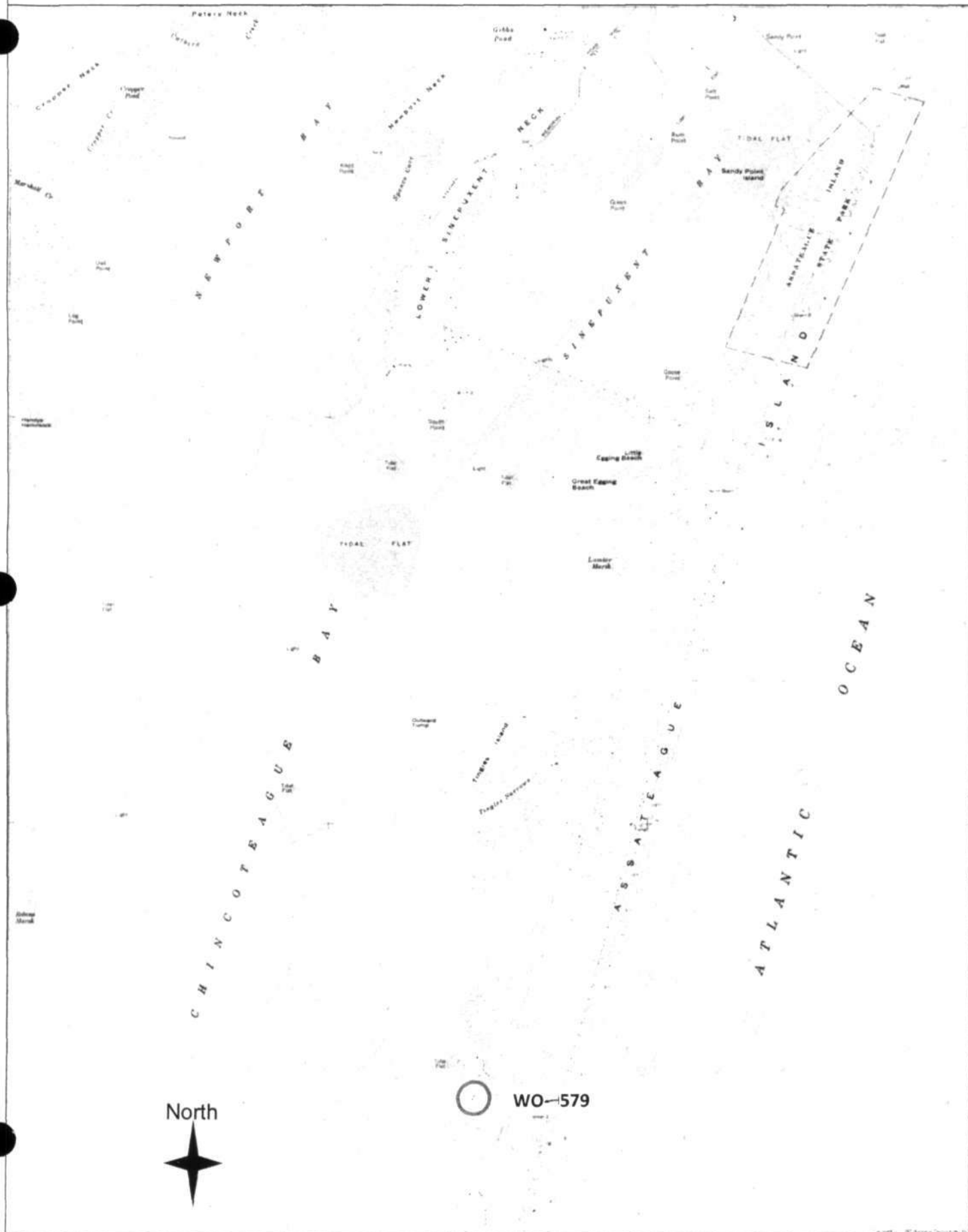
National Park Service. 2000. Cultural Landscape Field Survey, Hunting Lodge Properties Determination of Eligibility Study, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD. 38 pages.

National Park Service. 2012. Deed and Land Record Files, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD

WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge

Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland

USGS Topographic Quadrangle - Tingles Island



**WO--579      Bunting's Gunning Lodge**

**Photograph Log**

<b>Image File Name</b>	<b>Image Description</b>
WO--0579_2007-6-18_01.tif	View of Bunting's Lodge from the south
WO--0579_2007-6-18_02.tif	Lodge and front entrance from the east
WO--0579_2007-6-18_03.tif	East wing of Lodge
WO--0579_2007-6-18_04.tif	East wing of Lodge and entrance to kitchen from the northeast
WO--0579_2007-6-18_05.tif	View of Lodge, boardwalk, and storage shed from the north
WO--0579_2007-6-18_06.tif	North side of Lodge
WO--0579_2007-6-18_07.tif	West side of Lodge
WO--0579_2007-6-18_08.tif	South end of Lodge with Chimney and cupola
WO--0579_2007-6-18_09.tif	Storage shed on east side of Lodge
WO--0579_2007-6-18_10.tif	Storage shed
WO--0579_2007-6-18_11.tif	Possible dog kennel
WO--0579_2007-6-18_12.tif	Boardwalk leading from Lodge to water and former dock
WO--0579_2007-6-18_13.tif	Brick barbeque
WO--0579_2007-6-18_14.tif	Fenced area with south end of Lodge in background
WO--0579_2007-6-18_15.tif	Abandoned skiff
WO--0579_2007-6-18_16.tif	Abandoned all terrain vehicle

**Notes:**

All photographic prints created using Epson Claria ink and Epson Ultra Premium Photo Paper Glossy  
Digital image files saved on Delkin Devices Archival Gold® CD-R (Phthalocyanine dye)



WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge  
Worcester County, MD

1 of 16

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

View of Bunting's Lodge From the South

WO-0579\_2007-6-18\_01.TIF





WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 2 of 16

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Lodge And Front Entrance From the East

WO-0579\_2007-6-18\_02.TIF



WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 3 of 16

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

East wing of lodge

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_03.TIF



WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 4 of 16

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

East wing of Lodge AND Entrance to Kitchen  
From the northeast

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WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 5 of 16  
Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

View of Lodge, boardwalk, and storage shed  
from the north

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_05.TIF





WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge  
Worcester County, MD

6 of 16

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS  
6/18/2007

North side of Lodge

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_06.TIF



WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge  
Worcester County, MD

7 of 16

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS  
6/18/2007

West side of Lodge

WO-0579\_2007-6-18\_07.TIF



WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

South end of lodge with chimney and cupola

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_08.TIF



WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge  
Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Storage Shed on EAST side of Lodge

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_09.TIF





WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Storage Shed

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_10.TIF



WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Possible Dog Kennel

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WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge  
Worcester County, MD

12 of 16

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

BOARDWALK LEADING FROM LODGE TO WATER  
AND FORMER DOCK

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WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 13 of 16

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Brick barbeque

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WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 14 of 16  
Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Fenced Area with south end of Lodge in  
background

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WD-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge 15 of 16

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Abandoned skiff

WD-0579\_2007-6-18\_15.TIF



WO-579 Bunting's Gunning Lodge

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NAS

6/18/2007

Abandoned All terrain vehicle

WO-0579\_2007-6-18\_16.TIF